

THE

REHEARSAL.

1. The *three* things Promis'd in my Last.
2. The *First* further Clear'd by an *Address*.
3. The *Address* it self.

SATURDAY, July 12. 1707.

(1.) *Country-man.* **Y**OU Promis'd me *three* things last time, *Master*, 1st.

to give me further *Proofs* of the Disposition of the *Scots-Presbyterians* as to Joining with us upon the Foot of our Preserving our *Episcopacy* in *England*. 2^d. The Sentiments of the *English Dissenters* upon the Point. And 3^{dly}. That some of the *English Clergy* are Preparing the way in Favour of the *Scots-Kirk*. These are things of such *Moment*, and so *Surprizing*, that they ought to be well *Prov'd*.

(2.) *Rehearsal.* As to the *first*, you cannot have Better or more *Authentick* Proof than I gave you in my last. For it was by the *Representative* of the whole *Kirk* of *Scotland*. But for further Confirmation, you may see all the *Addressees*, *Petitions*, &c. to the *Parliament* in *Scotland*, while the *Union* was Debated there, which are set down in the *Flying Post*. But there is one he has not *Printed*, which came to my hands at that time, but I wou'd not mention it then, because I meddle not with *State Affairs*, nor wou'd Concern my self one way or other. But now that all is over, it can be no offence to see from what Quarter the Opposition to the *Union* came. And besides ther are some *Curiosities* in it. And it will help to Answer what you Desire. Thus then it follows, as it was then *Printed* in *Scotland*, one of which was at that time given to me, and is in these Words.

(3.) To His Grace Her Majesty's High Commissioner, And Honourable Estates of Parliament, The Humble Address of a Considerable Body of People in the South and Western Shires.

SHEWETH,

WE Underscribers being Commissionate and Appointed by Many Christian Societies in the South and Western Shires of this Kingdom for the Effect following, considering how much the Union treated of at present, may be of Dangerous Consequence to the Civil and Sacred Liberties

and Concerns of this Nation; and how it is like, if Carry'd on, to Involve the Nation in much Guilt. While,

1^{mo}. We incorporate with a Nation deeply Guilty of many National Abominations, who have openly Broke and Burnt their Covenant with God, and League with Us, entered into in the Year 1643. Are Sworn to the Maintainance of Abjured Prelacy, have their Publick and Established Worship horridly Corrupted with Superstition and Idolatry; And their Doctrine dreadfully Leavened with *Socinianism* and *Arminianism*, Besides the most Gross and Deeply Lamentable Prophaness that abounds amongst them.

2^{do}. We would thereby bind up our Hands from Prosecuting the Ends of our League and Covenant, while Incorporating with them upon Terms quite Prejudicial thereunto, And such as whereby we could not but Dishonour our GOD, and bring His Wrath upon Us, on this Account; And hence for our parts the Fear of GOD makes us Abhor any thoughts of thus Imbodying with them, or of any Union whatsoever of that sort, without making this our Joint Covenant the Primary and Fundamental Article thereof.

3^{tio}. We can never for our Parts own or Connive at the Civil Places of Church Men, and that Bishops should have a Legislative Power, and Authority over us; Yea we Reckon the Title of Spiritual Lords given to them as Blasphemous, The Lord CHRIST being the one only LORD in His own House.

4^{to}. It is an Extreame Grievance to us, to think, That not only the Interests of the Church of *England* should be secur'd by an Oath of Abjuration, while that of ours is left to the Will and Discretion of the *English* in a *British Parliament*. But withall, for any thing we See or Hear of as yet, many in this Nation will be obliged to take the said Oath: Which considering the second Act of Parliament, to which it Referrs, cannot be done, without both Inferring Guilt on Our Part, Endangering Our Church, and inevitably causing

causing many Jealousies, Heart-Burnings, and most Grievous Ruptures amongst Us.

5^{to}. When we think how the Great *GOD*, who fixes the Bounds of Peoples Habitations, has granted to Us this Land; And by a very peculiar Providence has Preserved us as a *FREE NATION*, these 2000 Years; when many other Nations Greater and Mightier than we have been Dispersed, and their Memory extinct; How unaccountable does it appear to us, that we should Destroy our Selves, and make a Voluntary Surrender of our *Liberties, Sovereignty, and Independency*; And that when our *GOD* has so often Interposed by a Miraculous Providence for our Deliverance and Defence, from the Encroachments and Invasions of Forreigners, and Injurious Neighbours! We should now Distrust our *PROTECTOR*, and Chuse England for the Ground of our Confidence our Shield and Stay; Which as we look upon as Contrary to *GOD's Word*, so likewise to our *SACRED COVENANTS*, whereby according thereto we are Bound to maintain the *Privileges of our Parliaments, and Liberties of the Subjects*.

6^{to}. We cannot see what Security we can have for whatever is Dear to Us, that we need to have secured in Case of an *Incorporating Union with England*, save only their Bare Promise, who have Broken the most Solemn Tyes of Sacred Engagements, and all Bonds of Friendship, Confederacy and Neighbourhood, these Hundred Years bygone, to the extream Hurt and Hazard both our Church and State, and have even still, since ever we came under one Head with them, been in Appearance seeking our Ruine.

7^{mo}. For any thing we can see, if this *Union* should go on, either we behoved to Ruine our Selves by submitting to a *TOLERATION*, Destructive to our own Government and Discipline; Or else to put Our Honest Neighbours, some of the *Dissenters in England*, in hazard of Losing theirs, since it will no doubt be Pleaded, that the Dissenters in both Parts of the Nation should be equally dealt with; And yet for us we cannot without Horror think of the Sin, and Sinful Consequences of a *TOLERATION* here.

8^{vo}. Our Hearts do Tremble to think what bitter Fruits of Faction, Parties, and Incurable Breaches the going into this *Union* may produce, and how easy an Access this, thro' the great Ferment of the Nation, may make for the Pretended King *James the Eighth*, to come to the Throne; At least we cannot understand how this Union can put a Barr thereupon, but rather have strong and not groundless Fears of its tending to the Contrary. And as to the matter of Rents, and Irritation among these in our Bounds, We are very sure that they who have hitherto complained of the Continuance, by Act of Par-

liament, of so many Prelatists in Churches, of the Connivance at others in Meeting Houses, of Incroachments, made on Assemblies in their Adjournments and Dissolution; and otherwise also in the matter of Fasts and Oaths; And of the not duly Executing of good Laws against Papists, Quakers, and other Heretical and Profanely Scandalous Persons, will then have their Grievances greatly Encreased, and who knows what may be the Issue thereof.

9^{no}. We cannot see how it can consist with this *Union*, to endeavour to bring to Condign Punishment Malignants or Enemies to Reformation, which is plain Duty in itself, and to which we stand Solemnly Engaged by our Covenants; Yea, such being readiest to take the *Sacramental Test of England*, are nearest to Advancement, And no *Scot's Man* can be Advanced in England without it, whereas any *English Man* may be in Place of Trust in Scotland, how opposite soever to the Government.

Upon all which and many more such weighty Reasons we cou'd offer, and are offered by others, who seek the Welfare of the Church and Kingdom, Tho' we Solemnly Protest and Profess, that we are not against an Union in the LORD, with England, And such as may be Consistent with the Liberty of our Nation, and with our Sacred Covenants, and Security of our Church; Yet we cannot but also Protest, like as here we do Protest against this Union as Modelled in the Printed Articles; Neither do we Judge our Selves bound thereby, tho' a prevailing Party in Parliament should Conclude the same; But will stand by such Noble Patriots, with Life and Fortune, as are for the Maintainance and Defence of the Nations Independancy and Freedom, and this Churches just Power, and proper Privileges, Conform to our attained Reformation from 1638 to 1649,

This in the Name of many Christian Societies United into a Considerable Body of People, in the South and Western Shires of this Kingdom, is Subscribed this 12th Day of November, 1706 Year.

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